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Not All Patronage Is in Albany

State Senate Majority Leader Joseph Zaretzki made some deft needle thrusts in replying to U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's curiously-timed criticisms about legislature patronage.

None was more telling than Zaretzki's thinly-veiled suggestion to Kennedy to see that affairs of the U.S. Senate, where Kennedy serves, are in order before he lectures the New York Senate, where he holds no office.

Zaretzki didn't argue with Kennedy's contentions that legislative appointments should be made on the basis of merit and not just political loyalty, that needless staff positions should be eliminated, and

that expenditures should be reported to the public.

But he noted: "I am not aware that the specific (recruiting) procedure you recommend has ever been used by Congress . . . or even by you in filling the staff positions in your own office."

And Zaretzki did not overlook the fact that U.S. Senate financial records are usually shielded from public view almost as zealously as Central Intelligence Agency reports.

Sen. Kennedy expresses high ideals about politics and patronage. It will be interesting to see how many he can persuade the U.S. Senate to put into practice. After all, this was a major goal of his predecessor, Kenneth B. Keating.

CPYRGHT